

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant thanks the Examiner for examining the pending application. The Office Action dated October 31, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-9 are rejected. Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 to further define the invention. No new matter has been added.

The Office Actions rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duijneveldt (US Patent 5,975,722 A), rejects claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duijneveldt (US Patent 5,975,722), and rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duijneveldt (US Patent 5,975,722 A), rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duijneveldt (US Patent 5,975,722 A), and rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph..

Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Due to the amendments made to the claims, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is now moot.

Claims 1 and 5 are allowable over the cited references in that claims 1 and 5 recite a combination of elements including, for example, "wherein a low voltage of an AC voltage is applied to the plurality of low voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps at the first side and the plurality of low voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps at the second side, and wherein a high voltage of the AC voltage is applied to the plurality of high voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps at the first side and the plurality of high voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps at the second side".

Claims 8 and 9 are allowable over the cited references in that claims 8 and 9 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “wherein the lamps have odd-numbered lamps and even-numbered lamps alternately arranged by N-number (where N is a positive integer more than 2), wherein the plurality of low voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps are disposed at the first side and the plurality of high voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps are disposed at the second side, wherein a low voltage of an AC voltage is applied to the plurality of low voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps at the first side and the plurality of low voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps at the second side, wherein a high voltage of the AC voltage is applied to the plurality of high voltage electrodes of even-numbered lamps at the first side and the plurality of high voltage electrodes of odd-numbered lamps at the second side, and wherein the odd-numbered lamps with the N-number are disposed adjacent to one another, and the even-numbered lamps with the N-number are disposed adjacent to one another”.

According to Van Duijneveldt (col. 6, lines 40-45), two power sources 8 and 9 are provided. A high voltage (or low voltage) of a first power source 8 is applied to one lamp 4 and a low voltage (or high voltage) of the first power source 8 is applied to another lamp 4””. In addition, a high voltage (or low voltage) of a second power source 9 is applied to one lamp 5 and a low voltage (or high voltage) of the second power source 9 is applied to another lamp 5””.

In Van Duijneveldt, lamps 4, 4', 4" and 4''' and lamps 5, 5', 5", 5''' are alternately arranged by one-number.

Thus, Duijneveldt fails to disclose this feature of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 and claims 2-4, 6 and 7, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references. Applicants believe

the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,



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